



ARLEN SPECTER SPEAKS

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THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

The President is reaching out to other countries with his recent announcement seeking a new United Nations Resolution. I agree with involving other nations in Iraq, and I believe that the prospects are good that there will be a resolution.

I believe that it is very important that we bring in the NATO allies and some of the United Nations on peace-keeping — not to give up U.S. and British control since it was the coalition of the willing which shed blood and undertook all the costs of the Iraq war, but I think that now in post-war Iraq that it is appropriate to give the U.N. a role and NATO a role to try to take some of the burden off the United States.

In addition, if we have a new U.N. resolution, I think we will have a chance to get Muslim countries — Pakistan and Turkey — involved.

If we can establish a democracy in Iraq, it will go a long way towards changing the complexion and face of the Middle East.

I think we are moving appropriately to try to bring Iraqis into the governing council, and to try to turn over as much local control as we can to them.

I believe that it is also very important to find out the basic facts on whether Saddam Hussein was really looking for nuclear material in Africa or not. Prime Minister Tony Blair of Great Britain continues to insist that the British intelligence was true, and I think we just have



to make a factual determination of whether British Intelligence was right or not. Beyond that, there has to be a determination made as to what happened within the White House on reviewing the

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PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PENNSYLVANIA'S DAIRY FARMERS

The plight of the dairy farmers nationally is very bad, especially in Pennsylvania where each year we find a number of dairy farms which go out of business.

We have not been successful in getting a dairy compact for Pennsylvania. There was a dairy compact for a short time in the Northeast, and we tried hard to get it extend to Pennsylvania, unsuccessfully. We're still working to secure

that compact, and that would be a big plus.

In the interim, the Secretary of Agriculture has some discretion to establish factors which are considered in the price of milk which fluctuates very tremendously. Sometimes it's in excess of \$17.00 per hundred weight, sometimes it's less than \$10.00.

What I've been trying to do is to find some way to incorporate the costs of production

into the prices that are set for milk. We're trying to get the Secretary to act to stabilize those prices.

On April 8, 2003, I authored a letter, which eleven Northeast Senators signed urging Secretary Veneman to review the 1937 Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act (AMAA), which takes into consideration the regional costs

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CREATING AN ASBESTOS TRUST FUND

The Senate has passed out a bill from committee on asbestos reform, an extraordinarily complicated subject. I have not seen one more complicated in my tenure in the Senate and really very necessary because many people very seriously injured from asbestos claims were not getting any compensation because the companies had gone bankrupt.

At the same time, people who were not seriously injured were being given awards, and there are many, many bankruptcies that have shaken the economy, so that it is a major, major item of concern, and a very compre-

hensive bill was worked out. Regrettably, the vote was pretty much along party lines, and as I said during the committee hearings, if there is a party line vote, there is likely to be a filibuster, which will defeat the bill. We are going to work hard to try to find a bill which will be acceptable to all parties.

In August Chief Judge Emeritus Edward R. Becker of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and I met with representatives of business, manufacturers, insurance companies, AFL-CIO and trial lawyers in an effort to mediate controversial issues on the asbestos bill now pending in the Senate.

Senator Orrin Hatch has done an outstanding job in putting together a \$108 billion trust fund with the possibility of it being supplemented with \$45 billion in addition, depending on certain contingencies. But there remain a great many concerns, and we are trying to get through them so that we can bring that bill to the floor and get it passed.

On September 12, Judge Becker and I continued, in an all day meeting, to resolve some of the many concerns with the bill. We intend to continue our meetings on September 26.

PENNSYLVANIA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH US AIRWAYS

On June 11, 2003, Senator Santorum and I held a meeting with US Airways Chief Executive Officer David Siegal, Governor Rendell and 14 members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation; to work out an arrangement where US Airways would retain its extensive operations in Pennsylvania.

The meeting included our laying on the line what the governor's office has done, and what the congressional delegation has done with respect to helping US Airways on the loan guarantees, their antitrust problems, and pensions — and asking for reciprocity.

Governor Rendell made a very good faith offer. David Siegal responded saying that they would do their best to work out a satisfactory arrangement. There will be extensive negotiations be-

tween U.S. Airways and the state.

At the present time, the state is reviewing the initial response from U.S. airways and the negotiations are continuing. It's a complex matter.



The state has put more than a quarter of a billion dollars on the table. It's very

important to try to work it out, if at all possible, to retain the hub in Pittsburgh, as well as the one in Philadelphia, and to save the thousands of jobs in Pennsylvania.

I believe in

the long run, we will work out the issues. U.S. Airways has taken a very tough position, frankly. They are looking to Charlotte; they are looking to other lines for hubs to replace Pittsburgh, but Pennsylvania

has made them a very good offer, which started in excess of a quarter of a billion dollars.

You have a lot of factors in these negotiations, a lot of moving parts. I think we're going to have to have some brass knuckle negotiation to get the issue resolved but I don't think anybody can establish a time table with any precision.

It's very important to try to work it out, if at all possible, to retain the hub in Pittsburgh,

THE SITUATION IN IRAQ (CONTINUED)

President's speech because if the CIA believed that there was a doubt about it, then it shouldn't have been included in the speech. There has to be a determination as to who in the National Security Council reviewed the speech, with the view to being sure that this kind of an error does not happen in the future.

There is no doubt that the Congress needs accurate information when considering whether to use force in a place like Iraq, and the American people are entitled to the facts, and this has to be pursued. The Senate voted a

resolution to pursue the matter and to take a look close at it.

The most important thing

we are moving appropriately to try to bring Iraqis into the governing council, and to try to turn over as much local control as we can to them

is to move Iraq ahead with a democracy and self-rule and have our troops withdraw at

the earliest possible date and then at the same time find out what exactly happened with respect to the facts on Saddam's seeking uranium and on the President's speech.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO PENNSYLVANIA'S DAIRY FARMERS (CONTINUED)

of feed, feed availability, or other region specific economic factors.

Section 608c(18) of the AMAA clearly called for the consideration of the economic factors regarding the marketing of milk in the regional orders across the country.

Additionally, I requested that upon the Secretary's review of the AMAA, and that it be fully enforced, which would eliminate the hardships inherent to the dairy farmers' cost of production.

On March 12, 2003, I, along with eleven other Senators from the Northeast, signed onto a letter urging the GAO to investigate the disparity between farm and retail milk prices. Since the expiration of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact on Octo-

ber 1, 2001, farmers in the Northeastern U.S. have suffered significant farm milk price drops, while retail milk prices have remained fairly consistent.

I've been trying to do is to find some way to incorporate the costs of production into the prices that are set

In addition, I am an original cosponsor of S. 154, the Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance Act of 2003, which would require that the same tariff-rate quotas currently assessed on related dairy products (cheese, skim milk powder) be applied to Milk Protein Concentrates (MPC) and casein used in the food and animal feed industries.

I have also inserted language regarding MPCs in the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations Act. This language directed the U.S. Customs Service to make their final decision on the reclassification of dairy pro-

tein blends within 30 days of the enactment of this Act and to report the results to the Appropriations Committee. On April 1, 2003, Customs made their decision not to reclassify MPCs, but I will continue to fight for the final passage of S.154.

Finally, in the 107th Congress, I sponsored S.1157, the Dairy Consumers and Producers Protection Act of 2001, with 39 cosponsors. S.1157 would create permanent dairy compacts in the Northeast, South, Northwest, and Intermountain regions of the United States. Compared to the short-term dairy program in the 2002 Farm Bill, these compacts have no cost to taxpayers and would provide a long-term solution to the dairy issue.



Senator Specter recently had the opportunity to meet with Republican candidate for California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to discuss funding for after school programs

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

During the Congressional recesses in July and August, I made a tour across the state to twenty-five fire companies to meet with Pennsylvania's first responders. It's really the great tradition of American volunteerism to see how these fire companies function and bring communities together.

Over the past several months Senator Santorum and I have been very pleased to announce, to small fire companies across the state, extensive grants from the federal government to help these small local fire companies purchase the equipment they need to quickly and effectively respond to emergencies in their community. These grants will be very helpful to prepare them for whatever may come, including if a terrorist attack should be launched against a smaller community.

I will be continuing my tour of small fire companies to evaluate their first responder capabilities. I enjoy the opportunity to meet with these local officials. So much attention is focused on the preparedness of large cities like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but terrorism can occur anywhere. It is important to ensure Pennsylvania communities are adequately prepared to meet any emergencies which may arise.

With 9 Regional Counter Terrorism Task Forces in place, Pennsylvania leads the nation in Regional Counter Terrorism planning and preparedness. In FY 03, I helped secure \$68 million for Pennsylvania First Responders. This funding, which is distributed through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, can be used to purchase equipment, and fund planning and training programs related to counter-terrorism response.



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